

[Subscribe to the Marine Corps Connection](#)

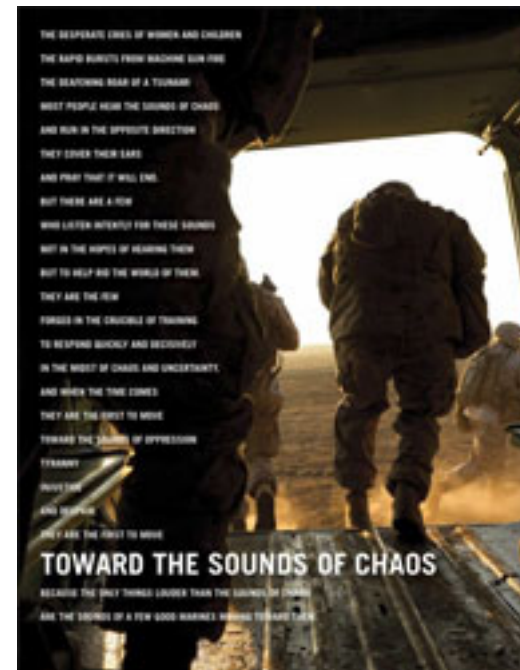


MARINES LAUNCH NEW GLOBAL AD CAMPAIGN

Not deterred by the potential for danger, Marines are courageous, known for running headfirst towards conflict. This 'first to fight' mentality will be portrayed in the New "Toward the Sounds of Chaos" advertising campaign which will premiere Mar. 10 on ESPN during the Big 12 Championship basketball game.

"What you'll see is a focus on Marines being ready to take on those elements in the world that are associated with chaos -- tyranny, injustice and despair," said, Brig. Joseph L. Osterman, commanding general, Marine Corps Recruiting Command (MCRC). The campaign not only showcases the Marine Corps' ability as elite warriors, but also its role as humanitarians. Footage of Marines' disaster-relief activities in Haiti and Japan targets potential recruits who are motivated by a desire to help others. "It challenges the best and brightest qualified prospects to challenge themselves and earn the title United States Marine," said Osterman. "Marines are more than the 'first to fight.' They are smart, courageous and compassionate citizens."

In addition to the television commercial, the campaign will include web videos, print ads, online banner and display



ads, and a social media presence via Marines.com.

Read More

If you are ready to answer the question "Which way would you run?," or if you want to learn more about the Marines, visit www.Marines.com or call 1-800-MARINES

HEROES

EIGHT FALLEN BROTHERS HONORED AT MEMORIAL SERVICE

Marines and Sailors from 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division held a memorial service for eight of their fallen brothers aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., on Feb. 24. Seaman Riley Gallinger-Long, Petty Officer 2nd Class Brian K. Lundy, Lance Cpls. Travis M. Nelson, Terry C. Write, Franklin N. Watson, Scott D. Harper, Christopher P. Levy and Cpl. Phillip D. McGeath all made the ultimate sacrifice while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. "It is impossible to remove the sadness of their deaths, but we cannot forget the obligation

their sacrifice gives us," said Lt. Col. George Benson, battalion commander of 1st Bn., 6th Marines. "We are obligated to live meaningful and purposeful lives. The richer and more meaningful our lives, the more meaningful and profound their sacrifice. We will never forget them. We will honor them above all other Americans and we will teach our children to do the same. We will earn what they have given us." The number of attendees, including family and friends of the fallen, reached close to 1,000.

Read More



SIXTY YEARS LATER, KOREAN VETERAN RECEIVES NAVY MARINE CORPS MEDAL



Sixty years after the Korean War, Charles P. Barrett, Jr., a retired Marine, received the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for his heroic actions on May 13, 1951. The then-Cpl. Barrett was engaged in refueling duties for a night combat operation when his fuel truck caught fire. At great personal risk, he successfully drove the burning fuel truck off the airfield, through a construction barrier and clear of all munitions before seeking his own safety. After his family heard the stories of his actions, Barrett's son began

the process to get his father the recognition he deserved. "Three years ago, I found his service records in his shed, and saw that he had all these medals and awards," said Charles P. Barrett III, Barrett's son. "I finally said, 'Dad, you have to tell me what you went through.'" Barrett received the medal at a Camp Pendleton, Calif., last month. The citation reads: "His loyal devotion to duty in the face of great personal risk was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service... By his prompt action and courage, he avoided the disaster which would undoubtedly have resulted from the subsequent explosion of the truck's cargo of gasoline which, due to his foresight, occurred without injury to aircraft or personnel."

[Read More](#)

VIETNAM VET FINALLY HONORED AFTER 43 YEARS

They say some things are better late than never, and that is certainly the case for Ingleside, Texas, Mayor Peter Perkins. Last week, Perkins, a retired Marine Corps colonel, was awarded a Bronze Star for meritorious service during the Vietnam War. Although the award was delayed more than four decades due to some lost paperwork, Perkins was still humbled by the recognition. "I'm honored to receive it, but it's been a long, long time. And I always look at awards like that as something that's not just for me, but is for all the men I fought with. And to honor them and to honor their service," said Perkins. The ceremony was held aboard the USS Lexington, and State Representative



Todd Hunter and Corpus Christi Mayor Joe Adame attended to honor Perkins' service.

[Read More](#)

WOUNDED OREGON MARINE EARNS BRONZE STAR

Cpl. Kyle Thompson's courageous actions during two firefights while stationed in Marjah, Helmand province, Afghanistan, earned him a Bronze Star for Valor. During his 2010 deployment, Thompson and his patrol from 1st Reconnaissance Battalion were conducting combat operations when they were ambushed by insurgents. Thompson endured withering enemy fire to coordinate counterattacks and lead his Marines to safety. The citation states that Thompson acted with complete disregard for his own safety. In particular, "as rounds continued to rip by him, he refused to leave his position and continued to suppress the enemy until the entire patrol was out of the kill zone," according to the citation. After his courageous efforts, Thompson later lost his left eye when an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated on Oct. 25, 2010, and received a Purple Heart for his injury.

[Read More](#)



MARINE RECEIVES PURPLE HEART

Staff Sgt. Charles Boyce was just doing his job when his vehicle in a convoy transporting equipment was hit by an improvised explosive device (IED) in Afghanistan last summer. His Bulk Fuel Company unit presented him with the Purple Heart on March 4 at the Marine Corps Reserve Training Center in Bakersfield, Calif. After suffering two Grade 2 concussions and post-traumatic amnesia, he considers himself lucky. "There are a lot more people who get a lot worse injuries from IEDs," he said. "It comes with the job, unfortunately. I have no regrets and if they need me to go back out there I will." He intends to visit his mother in Hawaii to show her his medal, which he hadn't yet told her about. "I don't want to worry her more than I have to," he said. Boyce joined the



Marine Corps in 2000 and plans to serve for at least eight more years.

[Read More](#)



NEWS

FUTURE OF AFGHAN VILLAGE KINDLED BY MARINES

Khan Neshin, Afghanistan, a district of nearly 20,000 people in villages across southern Helmand province, is undergoing an overhaul supervised by the Marines of Team 3, Civil Affairs Detachment 11-2.

Under Marine leadership, four major projects are in progress, including a new all-boys' school, a district center, a health clinic and a new paved road that runs through the village market. While the majority of the work is being done by locals, the Marines regularly patrol the district on



foot to keep an eye on the projects, ensure that the workers are moving in the right direction and get feedback from local elders on progress made in the area. "There's a lot of positive words to be said about the Afghan workers, and we let them know they're doing good work," said 2nd Lt. Andrew McGann. "We also make sure the work they have done is done to a standard. If not, we'll address it right then and there and recommend ways to remediate the work or how they can correct it." Since Team 3 arrived in September 2011, they've completed seven projects, including the renovation of a 300-year-old grand mosque that had been deteriorating from years of neglect. McGann said he hopes to complete two more projects before they re-deploy later this year.

[Read More](#)

FEMALE MARINES HELP SHAPE CORPS

Throughout her 24 years of service in the Corps, Sgt. Maj. Tamara L. Fode, the battalion sergeant major for Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler in Okinawa, Japan, has seen firsthand the contribution of female Marines. Reflecting on the history of female Marines in conjunction with the start of Women's History Month, she took time to honor the women of the Corps, both past and present. "Just as the great men of our Corps have carved their way through history leaving their indelible mark, in the past 94 years female



Marines have done the same," said Fode in her reflection. "Female Marines continue to break new ground in every clime and place as they have served side-by-side with their male counterparts in Iraq for the past 10 years and as they will continue to do so in Afghanistan...During the month of March, we will celebrate the women of our great nation, but we must never forget the uniform we wear washes away all differences as we serve together as United States Marines answering the call of our nation as America's 911 force." Statistically, only .06 percent of the United States population serve as Marines, and of that less than one percent who do serve, only 6.2 percent is comprised of female Marines. Although female Marines make up a small percentage of the Corps, they have participated in every conflict since World War I, including Pvt. Opha Mae Johnson, who was the first woman to enlist on Aug. 13, 1918.

[Read More](#)

MISLEADING METRICS UNDERSTATE READINESS AND VERSATILITY OF MV-22

The MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft has proved its worth in the Marine Corps fleet after 17 deployments over five years to Iraq, Haiti, Jordan, Afghanistan and Libya. It flies "twice as fast, carrying three times the payload, at four times the range of the legacy helicopter it replaces," according to one Marine Corps briefing. The Osprey has logged 140,000 safe flight hours, living up to the Marines' promise of it being agile,



versatile and reliable, yet critics say it is too expensive and not adequately combat-ready. Despite its \$68 million price tag, it is the operational equivalent of two or three conventional helicopters. The Osprey can carry double the number of troops that a CH-46 helicopter can, further and faster. Criticism of cost per flight hour ignores the MV-22's speed, range and carrying capacity. It is the most effective solution for supporting endangered troops. Transition from the CH-46 helicopter to the MV-22 is more than halfway complete, and the MV-22 is far superior in almost any scenario.

[Read More](#)



WOUNDED WARRIORS NOW CONQUERING THE SURF



As the medical staff at the San Diego Naval Medical Center works to rehabilitate wounded and injured Marines, sometimes the best therapy takes place outside the four walls of the hospital. One of the hospital's most successful therapy programs is now their Warrior Athlete Surf Clinic, which is done in conjunction with the Challenged Athletes Foundation. Surfing

helps the wounded Marines focus on skills such as strength and balance, while having fun, and for some Marines, the activity is therapeutic in more ways than one. "It lets you be normal. You stop worrying about your injuries," said Lance Cpl. Carlos Garcia, a double amputee. Unlike the rest of their recovery time, the ocean knows no injuries. "[The water has] absolutely no idea that you're injured when you're out there, you just feel normal, and it just feels good," he said. For the volunteers who help the wounded warriors, it is a rewarding experience as well. "There's a lot of satisfaction. Like I say, when you see somebody who doesn't have a lot to smile about, all of a sudden they catch a wave and their first wave, and they got that smile on their face," said Allen Mitchell, a program volunteer who has surfed for more than five decades.

[Read More](#)

MARINES STAY AT THE FOREFRONT OF SOCIAL MEDIA

The Marine Corps prides itself on its ability



to stay ahead of the curve, a goal that even carries over to social media arenas. Last week, Facebook selected the official Marine Corps page to be part of a small number of organizations to implement the new timeline design. According to Joel Kaplan, Vice President of U.S. Public Policy for Facebook, the new page format, which was launched on Feb. 29, gives the Marine Corps a more engaging way to tell their stories. Since the fan page was launched two years ago, the social media site has enabled the Corps to interact with the citizens whom it serves. "Marines have always had an outstanding connection with their community," said Greg Reeder, Director of Marine Corps Production. "Our online social presence takes that relationship to a broader scope, giving the Corps a forum for Marines to directly relate, respond and converse with Marines, families and the global public." The launch of the new page format allows for increased interaction and education for Marines and communities worldwide.

Read More
Visit the Marines on Facebook



TRAVEL INDUSTRY TO HIRE 3,000 MILITARY VETERANS AND SPOUSES

As part of the Joining Forces initiative, First Lady Michelle Obama announced last week that the American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA) has committed to hiring 3,000 veterans and military spouses by 2014. As part of ASTA's pledge, companies such as Enterprise Holdings, Avis Budget Group, Dollar Thrifty Automotive Group, Hertz Corporation, American Express Consumer Travel Network, Amadeus North America



and Orbitz Worldwide have all pledged to hire veterans and military spouses. "This commitment means that thousands of our heroes can build meaningful careers and provide for their families," said Mrs. Obama. "And we're especially excited that many of these jobs are tailor-made for our military spouses, who can keep their job as they move to new duty stations around the country and the world." ASTA's decision follows the First Lady's announcement last fall of the Joining Forces initiative, and other private sector commitments to hiring veterans and military spouses.

[Read More](#)

MILITARY SPOUSES HONORED

Military spouses have remained steadfast through the last decade of war, serving and sacrificing alongside their service members. At Military.com's 2012 Military Spouse Summit on March 3, Deanie Dempsey, wife of Chairman of The Joint Chiefs of Staff Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, encouraged spouses to keep telling their extraordinary stories "because it's an amazing story that everyone should hear." In particular, she cited Marine Corps wife Stephanie Geraghty as an exemplary military spouse. Geraghty started the "Stroller Warriors," a fitness club for military spouses at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., that helps raise funds for families who lost military loved ones. Mrs. Dempsey commended Geraghty and all other military spouses for their tremendous strength. "You are resilient, accomplished, experienced men and women who possess strong values and an even stronger work ethic," she said. "I want all of America to see what I see - this is a group that can be an incredible source of good."



[Read More](#)

THANK YOU

A NEW HOME FOR A WOUNDED MARINE VETERAN

Purple Heart Homes, the Rotary Club in Glastonbury, Conn., and several local volunteers have begun building a new home for Marine veteran Cpl. Manny Jiminez. After being hit by shrapnel while deployed in Afghanistan, he lost his left arm and ear, as well as sight in his left eye. Despite his injuries, the Marine has a positive outlook on life and he is looking forward to the changes ahead. "I'm super excited, just from the support that the town of Glastonbury has shown throughout the whole time," said Jiminez. The community leaders hope that in addition to helping Jiminez that the project will support other local veterans and unite the community. "[The veterans] have gone off and done what they were asked to do," said Craig Wellman of the Glastonbury Rotary Club. "It's good to show them support and to show them appreciation for the effort that they have made for all of us." The house will be built on a lot that was sold by the town for a single dollar. Construction is expected to finish by this summer.



[Read More](#)

